GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2764
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
STRATEGIC RESTRAINT REGIME
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have responded to proposal from Pakistan`s Military ruler containing strategic restraint regime for avoidance of an arms race, nuclear and conventional and confidence building in the region on a reciprocal basis; and

(b) if so, the details thereof

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) No Sir. On 13th June 2000, Pakistan, through an official statement issued on the eve of resumption of its non-proliferation dialogue with the US, suggested that India and Pakistan adhere to a `strategic restraint regime for avoidance of an arms race, nuclear and conventional, and confidence building in the region.....on a reciprocal basis`. This proposal is not new and remains based on Pakistan`s desire to seek parity with India; it has been put forward with propagandist intent. India has taken the lead in initiating discussions at the bilateral level on formalisation of restraint in the region including during PM`s historic visit to Lahore in February 1999. Unfortunately, Pakistan`s armed intrusion in Kargil and its repudiation of mutually agreed upon confidence-building measures and agreements, has set this process back. Pakistan needs to take necessary steps to restore trust to enable this process to resume.